

Founded 1960

# BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL & FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER  
No 432 September 2011

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**ARCHIVES:** Cnr Old Hume Highway and Bowral Road, MITTAGONG.

OPEN: Mondays, Tuesdays 10am-4pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Closed Public Holidays.  
Library collection contains reference books, journals and newsletters of other societies.

**MUSEUM:** Market Place, BERRIMA. Tel: 02 4877 1130 Email: [berrimamuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:berrimamuseum@bigpond.com) OPEN: Saturdays, Sundays, NSW Public and School Holidays (except Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day) 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Any person wanting to join the Society may do so at any stage during the year by completing a form and paying the appropriate fee. Joining Fee \$5.00 - Single \$20.00 - Family \$33.00.

**AFFILIATIONS:** Royal Australian Historical Society, NSW Association of Family History Societies, Museums Australia Inc & Regional Chapter.

## GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

**SEPTEMBER MEETING: Thursday 22 September 2011 at 7:30pm**  
**VENUE:** Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building,  
Bowral Road, Mittagong

**Our guest speaker will precede the general meeting.**

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Narelle Bower  
Narelle will provide an overview of medicine from Moss Vale from about 1850 to 1950. *See page 4 for further information.*

**SUPPER:** To be served following the speaker - Members - please bring a plate or a donation.

**OCTOBER MEETING: Thursday 27 October 2011 at 7:30pm**  
**VENUE:** Society Research Centre, Old Council Chambers Building,  
Bowral Road, Mittagong

**GUEST SPEAKER:** TBA

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And more ...



## Diary Dates

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 Father's Day
- 8 Management Committee Meeting
- 22 Monthly General Meeting - Talk by *Narelle Bowerm the Hospitals, Doctors and Nurses of Moss Vale 1850 - 1950*
- 24 School holidays commence

### OCTOBER

- Tulip Time
- 1 **MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE**
- 10 School holidays conclude
- 13 Management Committee Meeting
- 27 Monthly General Meeting

### NOVEMBER

- 1 Office bearer nominations due
- 1 Notices of motion due
- 10 Management Committee Meeting
- 24 **Monthly & AGM Meeting**

## Society Membership

Membership renewals are due by October 1 and a renewal form is enclosed in this month's newsletter.

## Annual Reports

A reminder to Officers - it's almost that time again - annual reports for inclusion in the November newsletter will be due at the end of next month. Thank you.

## From the President

**Ken Reid**  
Senior Vice President

The Society has applied for a grant from the RAHS in conjunction with Arts NSW to assist with publication of a book that Shylie Brown has been working on for quite some time detailing the early inns and hotels of the Southern Highlands. Fingers crossed!

*Beyond here may be Dragons* was the title of Geoff Goodfellow's talk at our August General Meeting when he spoke on his memories of living beyond the Bullio tunnel along Wombeyan Caves Road. What a simple but very satisfying self-sufficient lifestyle that was. Geoff

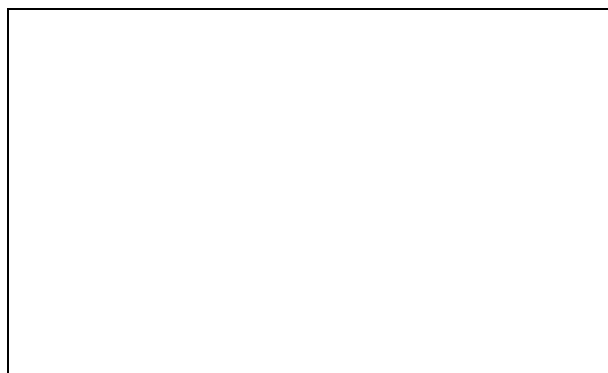
## Bob Williams, Museum Curator

### NEW GERMAN AMBASSADOR VISITS BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM

I recently received a telephone request to have an inspection of the museum at short notice.

Mr Mathias Sonn was travelling to Canberra with his partner Rhian Chilcott to take up his new position in the German Embassy. He wanted to see our exhibition 'Prisoners in Arcady', German mariners in Berrima 1915-1919'. He had seen 'The Enemy at Home' at the Museum of Sydney the previous day.

Mr Sonn spent some time absorbing the story of the internment camp before inspecting the other exhibitions. He said he will return with other visitors and he put the following comment in our VIP Visitors Book. "With many thanks for the excellent exhibit and for making it come alive for us at very short notice!"



*Mr Mathias Sonn and Rhian Chilcott at the museum*

reminded us of the importance of carrying a note book and jotting down memories as they occur and perhaps to revisit a spot from your past and sit quietly and let the memories triggered by sights, sounds or smells, become another entry in the book.

Due to changed rules by the Department of Fair Trading regarding Society Constitutions/By Laws, we have to combine the Model Constitution and our existing By-Laws into one document that will become the Society's Constitution. The Department of Fair Trading will now only accept one document, not by-laws in conjunction with the Model Constitution as previously. Several members have put in a great effort to produce the combined document, and after acceptance by the Management Committee, all

members will receive a copy of the document for perusal before it is presented at a special general meeting (date to be advised).

My apologies for announcing the setting-up of a display at *Hillview* both in the last President's Piece and at the General Meeting. This came about by my enthusiasm at the prospect of the Society becoming involved with the *Hillview* open days, and trying to alert members that we would require volunteers to help out. Unfortunately I 'jumped-the-gun'. The Society will not be involved with the open days - sorry for any confusion.

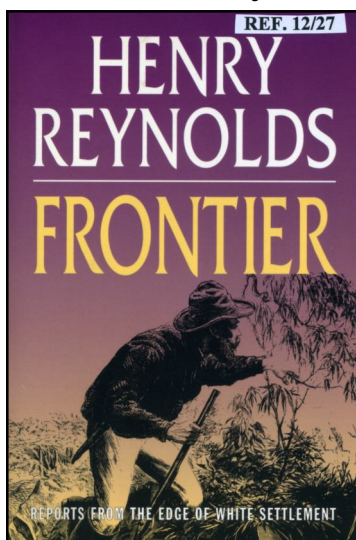
Another closing question:- *If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, then what is baby oil made from?*

## Library Report and Book Reviews

### Carolyn Dougherty

Among the new books received at the Archives Library during June/July are the following titles:

- ***Badgally Road, Campbelltown: The Other Side of the Line*** by Marie Holmes. Library Number: 25/55
- ***Chronicles of Appin, NSW*** by Syd Percival. Library Number: 25/53
- ***Grist Mills***, Journal of Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society Inc. Library Number: 25/54
- ***Fine Houses of Sydney*** by Robert Irving, John Kinstler and Max Dupain. Library Number: 23/76
- ***Old Colonial Buildings of Australia*** by Max Dupain. Library Number: 23/77
- ***Philip Geeves' Sydney***. Drawings by Cedric Emanuel. Library Number: 29/121
- ***Sydney Harbour: A pictorial history from the first settlers to the present day***, by Michael Stringer. Library Number: 29/120
- ***The Explorers*** by Tim Flannery. Library Number: 20/167
- ***The Story of Colo*** by Jean Marden and John Stephens. Library Number: Ref.13/206
- ***A Collection of the Native Flora at the Crags in the Nattai Valley*** compiled by members of the Sugar Gliders Pty. Ltd. Library Number: Ref. 13/207
- ***Fred Williams: A memoir at Mittagong*** by John Stephens. Library Number: Ref. 13/208
- ***Frontier: Aborigines, settlers and land***. Henry Reynolds. Library Number: Ref. 12/27
- ***The Other Side of the Frontier. Aboriginal resistance to the European invasion of Australia.*** Henry Reynolds. Library Number: Ref. 12/28
- ***The Journal of Fletcher Christian: Together with the history of Henry Corkill*** by Peter Corris. Library Number: Gen. Coll.
- ***Beautiful Bodies*** by Gerald Stone. Library Number: Gen. Coll.
- ***Scurvy: How a Surgeon, a Mariner and a Gentleman Solved the Greatest Medical Mystery of the Age of Sail*** by Stephen R. Bown. Library Number: Ref. 08/29
- ***Dancing with Strangers*** by Inga Clendinnen. Library Number: Ref. 12/26



### *Dancing with Strangers*

By Inga Clendinnen. Referring to the letters and published accounts from members of the first fleet, Inga Clendinnen provides us with insights into initial contact between the original Australians and first fleet members during the first few years of the colony. Inga reminds us that this handful of informants provide us with our information as to what happened between the races during Phillip's governorship and that 'our informants had been schooled by their professions to be scrupulous observers, but whole areas of local life, especially of thought and sensibility, remained invisible to them.'



The image above, titled 'View in Broken Bay' is by Lieutenant William Bradley, second in command of HMS Sirius, in whose reports are references to the Aboriginal people: 'these people mixed with ours and all hands danced together'.

### *Sydney Harbour: A pictorial history from the first settlers to the present day*

By Michael Stringer, it is a book worth browsing through. Published in 1984 it includes early photos dating back to the 1870s and '80s, with chapters on 'The Harbour at War', 'Pilots, Police & Patrols', and 'Shoreline Services' among others. The quality of the photos is not as high as we expect of current publications but still provides an insight into the Harbour as it evolved over the years.

### *Beautiful Bodies*

Reported in London's *The Standard*, 3 September 1833 - 'I never saw so many fine and beautiful bodies. The French and English wept together at such a horrible loss of life.' *Beautiful Bodies* by Gerald Stone is a narrative covering the voyage of the *Amphitrite*, a small convict ship carrying 102 female prisoners plus 12 of their children, crew and one passenger bound for the Australian colonies. Wrecked in 1833 on the coast of France there were only three survivors. Gerald Stone claims that what followed was a blatant cover up with the British Government refusing to release the names of the convicts thus denying these people an identity. *Beautiful Bodies* draws our attention to this little known event in convict history and lists the names of the female convicts involved.

## September General Meeting Speaker: Narelle Bown

### The Hospitals, Doctors and Nurses of Moss Vale, 1850-1950

At the September General Meeting, Narelle Bown will provide an overview of medicine in Moss Vale, from about 1850 to 1950, liberally sprinkled with anecdotes about the characters and the medical situations they faced.

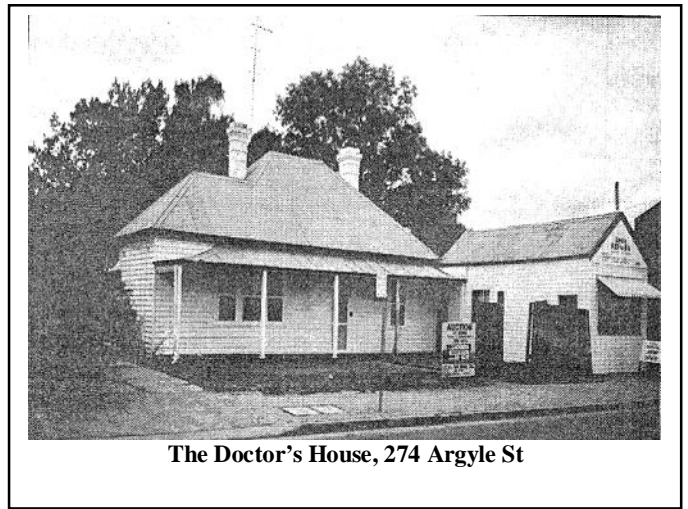


**Narelle Bown** (nee Hodge) grew up in Moss Vale during the 1950s. On leaving school she studied immunology at Brunel University (UK) and ANU. After working as a medical researcher and toxicologist, she retired two years ago and began researching her own family history. Last year she moved back to Moss Vale with her husband, and they built a house on the site of the old Garryowen hospital in Elizabeth Street. Thus began an investigation of the hospitals, doctors, nurses and diseases of Moss Vale in the 19th century, and the development of healthcare in the district.

\* \* \*

In Moss Vale, as elsewhere in the early days of the Colony, the doctor was only called in the event of an emergency or serious illness. Midwives attended births in the home or they had rooms for a few patients in their own homes. They also took in convalescent patients who needed to be cared for by a trained nurse. The first hospitals were located in large houses and operated by a trained nurse or matron, sometimes with the help of another nurse.

From 1840 until 1909, doctors located at the Berrima Gaol attended patients in the local area. In 1853 the settler population of Moss Vale was about 27, but by 1877 it had grown to over 500 and doctors began to take up practice in the town. From about 1920-1980, the building at 274 Argyle St. was known as "The Doctor's House". Dr Alcorn began practising there and Dr Tudehope was its last occupant.



The Doctor's House, 274 Argyle St

The 1800s were precarious times: there were epidemics of serious diseases such as diphtheria, measles, typhoid, smallpox and influenza; the most common accidents involved horses, firearms and drownings; and, of course, childbirth was often hazardous in those days.

Moss Vale was fortunate in having a succession of dedicated, caring doctors and nurses. Organisations such as the Red Cross, CWA and RSL worked to assist the doctors and nurses and provide facilities.



A wonderful example of this cooperation was the generosity of Frank Throsby in making available "The Mill" at Throsby Park as a convalescent home (pictured above) for soldiers after WW1. The building was renovated by Frank Throsby and was run by the Red Cross between 1916 and 1919. The home was maintained by the generosity of the people of the district, who worked there on a voluntary basis.

The way public health was handled in Moss Vale's early days provides a fascinating insight into the history and politics of early New South Wales, and the colourful characters that played their part make this an interesting and entertaining study.

**The General Meeting will commence at 7:30pm  
on Thursday 22 September in the  
Upstairs Meeting Room at the Archives, Mittagong**

## Bundanoon's early tourism

The early rapid rise in the popularity of Bundanoon as a tourist and holiday destination was due to its unique natural features being easily accessible, especially once the Great Southern Railway was built through the district. The main recreation reserve, located a short distance down the hill from the village, functioned as a picnic area and pleasure ground and from it tracks led to spectacular lookouts and waterfalls and to many fern-filled bowers.

By the mid 1880s visitors and tourists to Bundanoon began arriving in increasing numbers and a hotel was opened in 1884 and purpose-built guest houses began to spring up, including Nicholas's 'Fern Mount' and Grice's 'Summer Hill'. Transport was needed by guests who arrived by train, so there were livery stables and later bicycle shops, buses and taxis.

The popularity of the village as a holiday destination peaked in the 1930s. With widespread motor vehicle ownership into the 1950s and the aging of the facilities in Bundanoon, along with a change in the tastes of holiday makers, visitor numbers declined.

Yet the wild naturalness of the recreation reserves and the spectacular scenery abides and people are still drawn to the unspoiled beauty which refreshes the stress of modern life.

One key player in promoting early tourism in the village was William Nicholas, who provided medical and veterinarian services in Bundanoon for over 20 years from the 1870s. He was also a photographer and had a business at his *Fern Mount* home where he made stereoscopic photo cards for sale, featuring scenes of Bundanoon village and the Gullies.

These dual-image cards become 3D when looked at in a stereo viewer, which were popular at the time. The only local set of Nicholas' stereo cards, held by our Society, were made available to the Bundanoon Group who made a copy for their current display.

A viewing machine from the period and the facsimile set of Nicholas' stereo cards may be experienced at the Bundanoon History Group's Old Goods Shed.

Also showcased at the historic Goods Shed are mounted prints of photographs taken from a brochure first published in circa 1918 highlighting Bundanoon's spectacular scenery. An original copy of the brochure, belonging in the Society's archive collection, is on loan to the Bundanoon Group for the display.

Recollections from people growing up in the village are displayed as well, conveying the enthusiasm with which the local natural wonders were explored.

Bundanoon History Group's Old Goods Shed is open on the first and third Sunday each month, 10-3 pm.



**IDYLLIC:** Beside the falls at Bundanoon, circa 1890



**TENNIS:** Spectators and players at a match, c 1890

Photos are from the BDH&FHS set of stereoscopic cards produced by W A Nicholas of Bundanoon.

*Article compiled by P Morton*

## STOP PRESS: Society raffle results

**A Fathers' Day Raffle and Book Stall** was held on 3 days in early September at Mittagong Marketplace.



**Jane Lemann chats with Carolyn Hutton & Ron Mumford.**

**Prizewinners:** The Ozito Cordless Drill donated by Bunnings Warehouse won by Mr Carey, 31 Retford Road Bowral; and the Brandy, White wine, Jim Beam & Coke won by Mr Bob Baxter of Aylmerton.

The efforts of the members who made this fundraiser a financial success are appreciated and special thanks to Carolyn Hutton for organising the event.

## Dr Charles Throsby: surgeon, magistrate and explorer

Located on the south bank of the Wingecarribee River, the house at *Throsby Park* was built on a rise overlooking Bong Bong in 1834. It was the first settlement in the district, on land granted to Doctor Charles Throsby by Governor Macquarie.

Home to five generations of Throsbys, the house and remaining 75 acres were purchased by the NSW State Government in 1972 who gave responsibility for the property to the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1975. In September 2010 it was handed over to the Historic Houses Trust.

The impressive 27-room, Georgian colonial style home was envisaged by Dr Charles to be built of sandstone, quarried from the land where the house would stand (thus creating an extensive cellar), with cedar from nearby Meryla Valley and with Marulan marble for mantelpieces. He did not live to see the house that, in 1834, his nephew and heir Charles had designed along the lines his uncle envisaged.

So what brought Dr Charles, a surgeon and magistrate, to Bong Bong? His story is a fascinating tale of exploration and discovery saddened with malice and deceit.

Born at Glenfield near Leicester, England in 1771, the son of John Throsby, historian and antiquarian, young Charles soaked up knowledge and preferred to express himself in writing, due to a pronounced



**DR CHARLES THROSBY** and his wife **JANE**  
Portraits from paintings on ivory miniatures

stammer. While working on relatives' farms, he developed an interest in cattle breeding but he became a doctor of medicine.

In 1797 Dr Charles obtained appointment as ships' surgeon on the *Coromandel* and *Calcutta* military transports for the Napoleonic wars. In 1801 he married Jane Barber, a sea-captain's widow, and in February, 1802 embarked for Australia as surgeon on the *Coromandel* then a convict transport ship.

His wife is not listed as a passenger and may have followed him later. George, the son from her previous marriage, stayed on at school in England.

After arrival, Dr Charles served as assistant surgeon in Sydney and became friends with other recent arrivals in the colony, including Garnham Blaxcell (one of the three men who built the Rum Hospital).

Dr. Charles developed a passionate interest in his adopted land, and particularly in its native people. One of the first to regard the Aborigines as human beings, he lived among them and made friends with them. Although he was not a popular figure in the accepted English sense, being a withdrawn and thoughtful man, his friends were many and loyal, for they found him trustworthy. Some of the convicts assigned to him remained in his employ for many years after gaining their freedom.

In August 1805 he was posted to Newcastle as surgeon and magistrate, and later replaced Lieutenant Menzies as Commandant of the Settlement. In 1809, overworked, he was allowed to retire and was granted land at Liverpool where he established *Glenfield*. Before building the main house, he concentrated on planting vegetables and fruit trees, and erected fences for cattle and sheep.

The step-son, George Barber, arrived in the colony in 1814 joining them at *Glenfield* and impressing Dr Charles with his interest in rural matters. In 1815 George married Isabella Hume, the daughter of family friends of the Throsbys, and later the couple established *Glenrock* near Marulan.

Around this time, with the main house at *Glenfield* nearing completion, Dr Charles was told by Aborigines of a place called Five Islands (Illawarra) on the coast where there was plenty of grass and water. They led him to Appin and then down what is now the Bulli Pass. He lost no time in driving a mob of cattle there and building a stockyard and huts. This new pasture whetted his appetite to explore up into the hinterland.

A nephew, Charles Throsby-Smith, came out to join his uncle in 1816 but the two disagreed although later Dr Charles let him have the Illawarra land to settle with his wife Sarah Broughton.

Meanwhile Dr Charles became embroiled in financial matters. He had guaranteed a £5,000 loan for his friend Blaxcell who fled the colony in 1817, defaulting on many large debts, and died soon after. The affair became complicated, with a John Jamison suing in 1817 to recover the £5,000 debt. Even though Dr Charles was found to be not answerable for the money, he feared for his good name.

A much needed distraction turned up when young Hamilton Hume told him about his discovery of fertile land at Bong Bong and they set out to inspect it.

## *Throsby Park established at Bong Bong in 1820*

They set out from Liverpool with a small exploring party including several Aboriginal guides. Very much taken with the meadow-like terrain along the Wingecarribee River at Bong Bong, Dr Charles resolved to establish a property there.

In 1818 he led an exploration party, financed by Governor Macquarie, to find a way through to the coast from Bong Bong and to explore further south and west. This party included Hume, Meehan, Joseph Wild and several Aboriginal guides. They split up near present-day Marulan, with Dr Charles and Wild finding a way to the coast via Kangaroo Valley and Meehan's group exploring further south.

Dr Charles undertook another journey later that year, heading west from Sutton Forest and finding a way through to Bathurst. For this he received a 1,000-acre grant and he took up fertile land at Bong Bong.

Between 1819 and 1821, under instructions from Macquarie, with convict labour and Joseph Wild as overseer, Dr Charles built the South Road from Picton to Bong Bong and on to the Goulburn Plains. For this service he received an additional 500 acres adjoining his property at Bong Bong. Dr Charles and Wild often stayed in huts they erected at Bong Bong.

His grant was named Throsby Park by Macquarie. By 1823 a four-bedroom weatherboard cottage with a separate sandstone-paved kitchen containing fireplace and brick oven had been established. Later an adjoining room was added as Magistrate's Court, and closed-in verandahs linked the buildings. A large sandstock-brick barn, designed by Francis Greenway, was erected on the property in 1826.

Dr Charles and his wife Jane visited for extended stays. The couple had not produced any children. They were hopeful that another nephew who had arrived in 1820, also Charles, a young barrister, would assume the running of Throsby Park and prove suitable as an heir.

In July 1825 Dr Charles was appointed to the Legislative Council. Over the following two years this increased his already heavy work-load, made worse by having to cope with severe drought. He had important legal papers stolen from his home at Glenfield, and in March 1828 was devastated by a savage attack on the relatives of his Aboriginal guide.

A final blow came in April 1828 when John Jamison, by then the colony's richest man, perhaps resentful of Throsby's appointment to the Legislature, revived the old court case and this time the verdict went against Throsby. Although he could afford to pay the £5,000, he felt that his integrity was at stake.

Doctor Throsby, aged 57, took his own life with a gun at Glenfield on April 2, 1828.

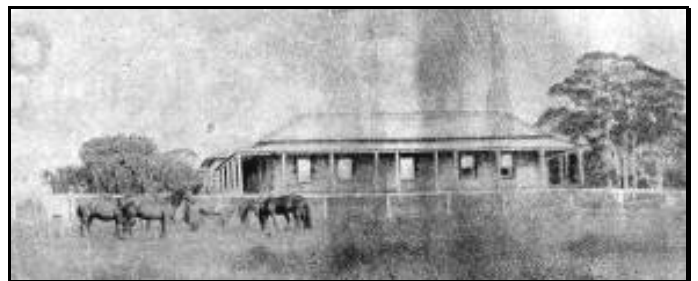
Rachel Roxburgh in her book 'Throsby Park' says that "The verdict in favour of Jamison came as a bitter and shameful blow. Others, more sophisticated and less generous than Throsby, came to the colony to take what they could get, to make their fortunes and return to Europe. Charles Throsby was an Australian by choice."

Before his death, Dr Throsby appointed his nephew Charles as heir. While residing at Glenfield, young Charles met Elizabeth "Betsy" Broughton. She was the daughter of William Broughton, Deputy Assistant Commissary General, and a Throsby family friend.

Charles married the 16-year old Betsy in 1824. She was something of a legend in the colony, having at the age of two survived a Maori attack on the ship in which she and her mother were travelling to England. She witnessed her mother's brutal death. After a period in South America waiting for a passage home, she was reunited with her father due to the efforts of Captain Berry, a family friend.

Charles and Betsy settled at Throsby Park in the Cottage in 1828 and moved into the House when finished in 1837. Undaunted by the fact that he had to pay off the large Jamison debt, Charles was to prove himself a worthy successor. He became Magistrate on the Sutton Forest Bench and a prominent figure in the rapidly growing Sutton Forest/Berrima district.

*This Throsby history will continue in the next issue.*



**THROSBY PARK:** A very early photo taken before an extra roof was added around 1900.



**THROSBY HOUSE:** Before restoration in the 1970s.

*Article compiled by P Morton*

## DIARY DATES

THURSDAY	8	SEP	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	22	SEP	Monthly General Meeting	<b>7:30</b> pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	13	OCT	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	27	OCT	Monthly General Meeting	<b>7:30</b> pm at the Historical Society
THURSDAY	10	NOV	Management Committee Meeting	
THURSDAY	24	NOV	AGM follows the General Meeting	<b>7:30</b> pm at the Historical Society

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## THE BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

is proudly supported by the following organizations that encourage the work of our Society in collecting, preserving and maintaining the history of the Southern Highlands.

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